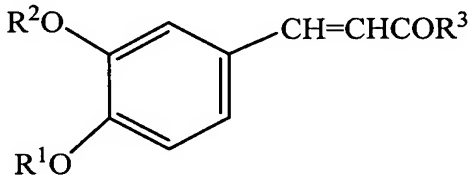
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method for treating hypertension, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, R^3 represents a hydroxyl group, ~~an ester bond residue,~~ or an amide bond residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

wherein said compound of formula (1) is not ferulic acid.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (1) is rosmarinic acid or phenethyl caffeate.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl groups of R^1 or R^2 are derived from $C_{1\text{-}40}$ alcohols or aryl alcohols.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein the acyl group of R^1 or R^2 is derived from C_{1-40} carboxylic acids.

Claims 9 - 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein R^3 is an amide bond residue.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein the amide bond residue is derived from water soluble amino acids.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 50 g.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is orally.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, fine subtilaes, pills, powders, hard capsules, soft capsules, troches, chewables and liquids.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a liquid form.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 17, wherein said compound of formula (1) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt.%.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is parenterally.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-3 were previously canceled.

Claims 6, 9, and 10 are canceled herein.

Claim 4 has been amended.

Support for the amendment of Claim 4 can be found in the original Claim 1. .

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.